

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

WHEREAS, in 1959, Senate Resolution No. 33 and House Resolution No. 19, recognizing the importance of the extraordinary manifestations of nature and recreational attributes of the Current and Eleven Point Riverways, requested Congress to enact legislation to preserve the natural resources and provide recreational development and other improvements for the public use; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Congress answered Missouri's request by enacting legislation to establish the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

WHEREAS, the riverways within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways are, and remain, public highways of the State of Missouri, subject to concurrent jurisdiction between the state of Missouri and the United States under Missouri Senate Bill No. 362 enacted in 1971; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the National Park Service began researching for the purpose of drafting a new general management plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is advocating the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan is to shut down public access points to riverways, eliminate motorized boat traffic from certain areas, further restrict boat motor horsepower in other areas, close several gravel bars, and propose that additional areas be designated as federal wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the general management plan will guide decisions related to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways for the next 15 to 20 years; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of the most critical components of our rural economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of hikers, campers, boaters, hunters, fishermen, and horseback riders visit these areas annually generating irreplaceable tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, any further limitations on the access to these riverways would severely impact this local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Conservation Commission is charged with the control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of bird, fish, game, forestry, and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations, and all other property owned, acquired, or used for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2009, the Missouri Department of Conservation recommended that "hunting, fishing, and trapping continue to be allowed through the Ozark National Scenic Riverways except

in highly developed areas where a reasonable safety zone for public protection may be required”:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the National Park Service not to take action on the general management plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly does not find that the “Preferred Alternative” plan advocated by the National Park Service uses the land and riverways as the State of Missouri originally intended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly urges the Department of the Interior to enter into negotiations with the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation for the return of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri so that the land will continued to be used for its original and intended purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Governor Jay Nixon.

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